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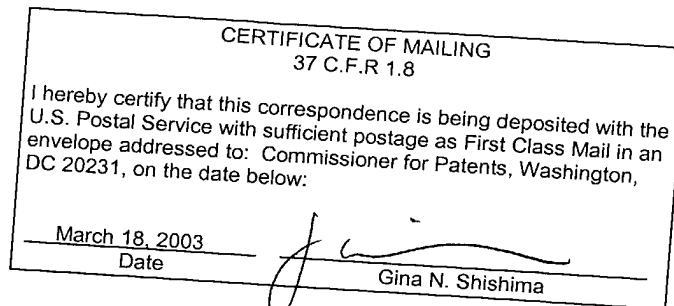
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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

TELEPHONE: (512) 474-5201
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March 18, 2003



Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: SN 10/029,397 entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DEPLETING rRNA
POPULATIONS" by Murphy et al.
Our ref: AMBI:076US/10106991

Commissioner:

Enclosed please find the following for filing in the above-referenced patent application:

- (1) Response to Restriction Requirement Dated March 3, 2003; and
- (2) A return postcard to acknowledge receipt of these materials. Please date stamp and mail this postcard.

Should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Account No.: 50-1212/AMBI:076US.

Very truly yours,

Gina N. Shishima
Reg. No. 45,104

GNS/lb
Enclosures

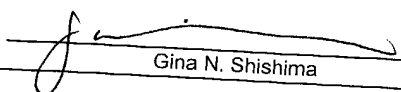
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date below:

March 18, 2003
Date


Gina N. Shishima

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Murphy et al.

Serial No.: 10/029,397

Filed: December 20, 2001

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
DEPLETING rRNA POPULATIONS

Group Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: Chakrabarti, Arun K.

Atty. Dkt. No.: AMBI:076US

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
DATED MARCH 3, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Commissioner:

This paper is submitted in response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 3, 2003 for which the date for response is April 3, 2003. Therefore, this response is timely filed.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Account No.: 50-1212/AMBI:076US.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

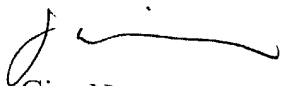
Applicants' representative had a telephone conference with the examiner on March 12, 2003, which was appreciated. In that telephone conference, the Examiner made clear that he is imposing a species election with respect to claim 4.

Accordingly, Applicants elect SEQ ID NO:60, which is recited in claim 4. Claims 1, 2, and 3 are generic with respect to claim 4. Thus, Applicants reserve the right, should allowable subject matter be found based on the elected species, to have a search on the broader genus be conducted. Applicants also assume they will be entitled to consideration of additional species should a generic claim be found allowable.

The previous election of SEQ ID NO:17 is considered irrelevant, and Applicants withdraw that election.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-3081 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Gina N. Shishima
Reg. No. 45,104
Attorney for Applicants

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Date: March 18, 2003